

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-07 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
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P R 200904Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6460
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SALT, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: YURIY ZHUKOV ON SALT SITUATION

1. PRAVDA APRIL 20 CARRIES LONG COMMENT ON SALT SITUATION
BY SENIOR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR YURIY ZHUKOV. BASIC LINE IS
THAT SALT AGREEMENT STILL POSSIBLE PROVIDED THAT IT IS BASED ON
PRINCIPLES OF "EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY" AND ON THE
"UNDERSTANDINGS" REACHED AT VLADIVOSTOK AND "IN THE COURSE OF
SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS." HE REJECTS U.S. PROPOSALS WHICH HE SAYS
WASHINGTON KNEW IN ADVANCE DEMANDED "ONE-SIDED DISARMAMENT OF
THE USSR IN EXCHANGE FOR VAGUE PROMISES OF THE AMERICANS TO
ABSTAIN FROM CREATING SOME NEW TYPES OF ARMS."

2. SHUKOV'S CRITICAL COMMENTARY ON U.S. ATTITUDES FOCUSES ON
SECDEF BROWN AND PRESIDENT CARTER. AFTER CLAIMING THAT U.S.
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PROPOSALS WERE FORMULATED TO SATISFY PENTAGON, MILITARY-
INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, AND CONGRESSIONAL HARD-LINERS, HE CITES BROWN
THAT SHOULD SALT AGREEMENT NOT BE REACHED PENTAGON WILL GO AHEAD
WITH PLANS WHICH "IN ANY EVENT WE ARE PLANNING TO DO." ZHUKOV
SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIES THESE PROGRAMS AS B-1, TRIDENT, MX AND
CRUISE MISSILES. IN COMMENT ON PRESIDENT HE NOTES THAT PRESIDENT
PROMISED TO REEXAMINE U.S. PROPOSALS, YET STILL STATES

THAT HE SEES NO REASON TO CHANGE THEM. IN CONTRAST FORMER SECRETARY
KISSINGER GETS TWO FAVORABLE MENTIONS BY ZHUKOV.

3. COMMENT: ZHUKOV IN THIS ARTICLE IS HAMMERING AT LINE,
WHICH IS STANDARD PUBLIC STANCE, COMBINING OPTIMISM ABOUT
POSSIBILITIES FOR AGREEMENT (QUOTING FROM BREZHNEV'S APRIL 5
REMARKS AT CASTRO LUNCH) WITH STRONG CRITICISM OF U.S.
APPROACH. IN MAKING HIS ARGUMENTS ZHUKOV PICKS UP POINT FIRST
MADE IN PRAVDA EDITORIAL APRIL 14 -- WHICH WE EXPECT WILL
BECOME STANDARD FORMULA -- THAT BASIS FOR AGREEMENT MUST BE
VLADIVOSTOK AND UNSPECIFIED FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS AND THAT U.S.
MUST RETURN TO THESE "UNDERSTANDINGS" IF A SALT AGREEMENT IS TO
BE REACHED. ZHUKOV ALSO MAKES LIBERAL USE OF QUOTES FROM
WESTERN PRESS SOURCES TO STRENGTHEN HIS ARGUMENTS THAT U.S.
PROPOSALS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT IT IS UP TO U.S. TO ALTER ITS
STANCE.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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